

**To:** Sklar, Ryan[ryan.sklar@sol.doi.gov]  
**Cc:** Younger, Cally[cally.younger@sol.doi.gov]  
**From:** Rigas, Laura  
**Sent:** 2018-03-28T12:05:13-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: Flagging documents involving Sec. Zinke that will be released pursuant to FOIA litigation  
**Received:** 2018-03-28T12:05:21-04:00

Thank you. Will review.  
My best,  
L

*Laura Keehner Rigas*  
*Communications Director*  
*U.S. Department of the Interior*  
*(202) 897 7022 cell*  
*@Interior*

On Wed, Mar 28, 2018 at 11:44 AM, Sklar, Ryan <[ryan.sklar@sol.doi.gov](mailto:ryan.sklar@sol.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Laura,  
Cally Younger suggested I reach out to you.

The Department is preparing to release 262 pages of documents that are responsive to a FOIA request submitted by the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD). The Department failed to respond to the FOIA on time, so CBD initiated a lawsuit, and the Department is now under a court order to release responsive documents on a monthly basis. The next release is due by April 18.

The attached PDF contains all 262 pages that the Department is planning to release. Exec. Sec.'s FOIA team has reviewed the documents and proposed redactions, which an attorney in SOL's Division of General Law has reviewed and signed off on. Because some of the documents relate to the Department's review of national monuments and I'm working on the monument-related litigation, I've also done a monument-related awareness review.

The documents consists largely of outside entities requesting meetings with and sending information to Secretary Zinke. Although we didn't see anything overly controversial in the documents, they do contain numerous emails to Secretary Zinke's personal (b) (6) account, so Cally and I thought it would be helpful to flag the production for you and your team before it leaves the building. There is also some correspondence between the Secretary and Andy Techmanski, the CEO of Whitefish Energy.

Exec. Sec. still needs to create a Vaughn Index and process the documents, so they won't be released immediately. If you see anything of concern, please let me know asap and we can potentially work with Exec. Sec. to address the issue before the documents are released.

Thanks in advance, and please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss.

Best,  
Ryan

--

**Ryan Sklar**  
Attorney-Advisor  
Office of the Solicitor  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202-208-3039

NOTICE: This e-mail (including attachments) is intended for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. It may contain information that is privileged, confidential, or otherwise protected by applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, copying, or use of this e-mail or its contents is strictly prohibited. If you receive this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately and destroy all copies.